

# A TRUE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE TOWER OF BABEL.

An American Expedition Discovers Its Remains in Ancient Babylonia.

A photograph of the Tower of Babel! Who can now draw the line between the possible and the impossible? Who can now say unto Science: "Thus far shalt thou go, and no further?"

A true photograph of that ancient tower of Babel that was designed to reach up into the heavens—here it is upon this page, and beside it is a photograph of an arch that was in crumbling ruins centuries before the foundation stone of this temple was laid above its span!

Where will the wonders of this age cease? The Sunday Journal lays before you a narrative that goes back to the year 7000 before Christ, when the builders of that temple were yet unborn—when Rome, aye, even Greece, was a wilderness of virgin forests.

It all comes out of a new big book that found its way to the Sunday Journal office during the past week, and the title of the book is: "Cuneiform Inscriptions, Tablets and Ruins Discovered by the Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania, Part II."

This expedition was organized by scholars connected with this university, and its expenses were borne by a number of liberal gentlemen of Philadelphia. The expedition made three trips to the site of ancient Babylonia, returning from the last in the Fall of 1896—only a few months ago.

Its director was the Hon. John P. Peters; Professor H. V. Hilprecht and R. F. Harper were the Assyriologists; John H. Haynes was business manager, commissary and photographer; D. Noonan was the interpreter, and Reddy Bey the Commissioner of the Ottoman Government, who was sent to make a report to his Government upon the results of the expedition's labors.

The publication in this country of the results of these researches is in the charge of Professor Hilprecht. As soon as the work is completed, which will probably be within three or four months, Professor Hilprecht will accept the invitation of the Sultan of Turkey to examine the ancient manuscripts and archaeological treasures that are stored away in dusty corners of the royal library in Constantinople.

Part I. of this expedition's report was published last Winter, but it contained only photographs of the cuneiform tablets that were found in one small locality.

Part II., which has just been issued, contains an account of the excavations which were made on the site of the ancient city of Nippur. In Nippur the temple of Babel was built and, although its ruins were discovered many years ago, it remained for this American expedition to dig down and clear away the debris that hid its outlines so that all that remained of this ancient structure could be photographed by a modern camera.

In its third and last campaign this American expedition discovered in these ruins the arch referred to above, 400 tons and 21,000 cuneiform tablets, whose inscriptions bear about the same relation to the cuneiform writing which the modern Assyriological scholars have learned to decipher as the Latin of early Rome does to modern Italian. Traces were found of a civilization that was old thousands of years before the Tower of Babel was thought of.

The patron divinity of the city of Nippur was the Babylonian god Bel. The enormous temple that was erected in his honor was called the temple or the tower of the Gates of Bel, or, as it is called in the later inscriptions, the Tower of Ba-Bel.

It was also known as Ingar sag, or "Mountain of Heaven," an unmistakable allusion to the design of its builders. It was built in seven stories or stages, the upper stories having been added many centuries after the construction of the tower was begun. Under the ruins of the lowest story Professor Hilprecht's party made their most valuable discoveries.

The first king of Babylonia whose name has come down to modern history was Sargon I. He was long supposed to have been a mythical character, but recent discoveries have settled the fact that he had really existed about 3,000 years before Christ.

Under the ruins of the lowest story of the Tower of Babel Professor Hilprecht found the remains of an immense wall, more than forty feet wide, which had evidently at one time completely encircled the city. This wall, he found by inscriptions, was built by Naram-Sin, the son of Sargon I.

The expedition dug down under this wall, and here they came to the most astounding discovery of all. By inscriptions, by urns and tablets, and by the fifty feet of accumulated debris of ruined buildings, broken pottery and drains, they found not only that Sargon I. had once lived and ruled over Babylonia, but that at least 4,000 years of history must have preceded his reign.

"I do not hesitate, therefore," writes Professor Hilprecht, "to date the first settlements in Nippur somewhere between 6000 and 7000 B. C., and possibly even earlier."

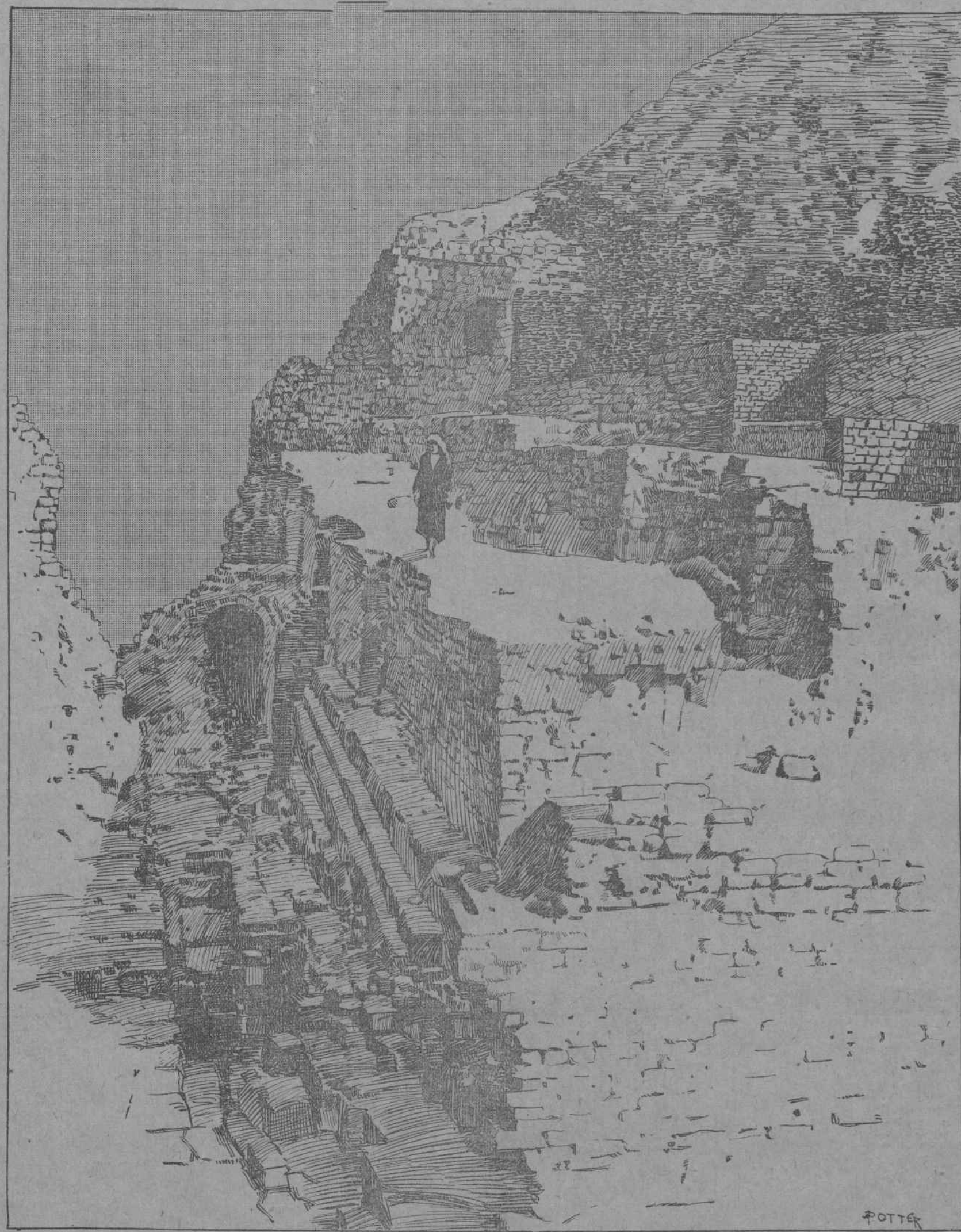
Scientists have, of course, long discarded the chronology of the Old Testament, as it has been found faulty in many instances. But that Asiatic civilization dated back 7,000 years before Christ, while it has often been advanced as a theory, has never before been proven.

To a layman it seems almost incredible that an explorer should be able to determine with any degree of accuracy the age of the ruins he is excavating. The method of reckoning, however, approaches almost to an exact science. The strata of the ruined cities mean as much to the Oriental explorer as the strata of mineral formation mean to the geologist. In addition to that the wording of the various inscriptions found at different depths shows the gradual change in the language that comes with centuries of time.

The expedition came upon a large open vase in terra cotta in the familiar rope pattern, but in a much better state of preservation than the usual specimens of pottery found in ancient ruins. This vase was fashioned by a skilled Babylonian workman in the fifth millennium before Christ—the time can no longer be counted by centuries—when Sargon I. had not yet been born.

What a world of fanciful imaginings lies in this simple little vase! In those days there were probably no such enormous potteries as exist to-day. The vase was probably the handiwork of some simple potter who sat in his shop and hummed and chatted with his fellow workmen and discussed the news and politics of his day—

It Was Built in Seven Stories or Stages, and Dates as Far Back as 6,000 or 7,000 B. C.



The Famous Tower of Babel, "Mountain of Heaven," as It Actually Appears To-day After Surviving Many Centuries.

Valuable Ruins, Inscriptions and Prehistoric Relics Brought to Light.

Under Its Crumbling Walls They Dug Up Most Interesting Pottery and Tablets with Cuneiform Writings by Ancient Scholars.

straight lines inscribed within it—portrays the Babylonian idea that the earth was traversed by canals. In fact, it is known that they called their country "Euegi," the land of canals and reeds.

The form for "star" is almost picture-writing such as is in vogue among barbaric tribes. In the later Babylonian and Assyrian tablets this form means not "star," but also "heaven" and "king."

The figure for "house" Professor Hilprecht found easy to understand, and the addition of two marks on each side of it told his trained eye that a door was meant. The picture of the recumbent figure of a man is, however, the most striking. He is lying flat on the ground in what was evidently an attitude of prayer. To indicate that the man was a king these old Babylonians placed before it a mark that indicated greatness.

These old inscriptions furnish something like a key to the later Assyrian cuneiform writing, showing that the writing of the Assyrians, like our own, was not an arbitrary selection of signs, but the result of ages of development from an earlier form.

Photographs and fac-similes of the tablets that were found in these deep ruins will soon be sent to scholars all over the world, and for many years to come they will have before them the task of dragging from these mystic inscriptions the secrets which they hold.

To speculate upon what is written upon these tablets would be idle. Perhaps they contain glowing accounts of the victories which the Babylonian soldiers won over their numerous enemies. Perhaps they are the records of the glories of those old kings who lived and died before history began. Or, among them, perhaps, the learned scholar, poring over his tablet in the seclusion of his study, will slowly decipher a message full of tender passion, which some ardent lover sent to his sweetheart to tell her of his love.

The lover is dead and his sweetheart is dead. For 8,000 years they have been dead and their bodies have mingled with the dusty ruins of the city of Nippur. But their love lives, for love is eternal—the same today as it was thirty centuries ago, before the clink of the hammer was heard upon the foundation stones of the tower of Babel.

## VANISHING LIFE

Interesting Creatures That Have Late Become Extinct, or Are About to Become So.

An English scientist, Professor A. C. Haddon, declares that students should spare more time from the investigation of the past to keeping a record of forms of life that are daily becoming extinct.

Many large and curious animals have vanished from the earth within recent years. The moa has gone from New Zealand, the aepyornis from Madagascar, probably within not many centuries; the dodo has disappeared from Mauritius, the solitaire from Rodriguez, the great auk from Arctic shores, Steller's sea cow from Bering's Island, and half a dozen other birds or beasts are either dead or just dying out. How long will huge tortoises exist in the Galapagos? They have already disappeared, with the flightless birds, from the Mascarene Islands. The ibex, once so abundant in North America, is now comparatively scarce, and the big game of Africa has become far less numerous than formerly.

Races, too, are going, as the Tasmanian has gone. The languages of Polynesia are being destroyed or mutilated, while in most nations the folklore is being forgotten or mingled with alien elements. For no one, in the growing confusion of nations, is the opportunity receding more quickly than for the anthropologist.

At the present time civilization is more active than at any other in wiping out forms of life which are not necessary to it. Professor Haddon wants a committee of scientists formed to study this subject.

## USES OF THE HAIRPIN.

A Striking Proof That It Is Not Left Behind in the March of Science and Civilization.

The infinite uses of the hairpin are proverbial. From time immemorial it has played a ubiquitous part in the affairs of mankind.

It is often necessary to record that such and such a simple and ancient device has been superseded by modern science and ingenuity. Shall we fear this fate for the hairpin? Apparently not, for an incident of the past week has proved that it has a new use and that it is still indispensable to the happiness and comfort of the world.

A tussle burst out in the electric machinery of trolley car 370 of the Jersey City Belt Line and the car came to a dead standstill. The motorman had no material for making a temporary repair. There was but one woman in the car, and she was well dressed and dignified. After a few moments' hesitation the motorman blushed and said:

"Beg pardon, ma'am, but I'd be much obliged for the loan of a hairpin."

Very graciously and naturally she handed out the desired article, and the car was able to proceed. So the hairpin affirmed its ancient position by a new service to humanity.

This incident makes it appropriate to enumerate a few of the uses to which the hairpin has been frequently put:

To catch fish.  
To trim a lamp.  
To allay irritation by counter irritation.  
To save a child from choking.  
To mend harness.  
To untangle a shoestring.  
To button gloves and shoes.  
To pull out the remains of a broken cork.  
To hold up the centreboard of a catboat.  
To pull rope through curtains and other things.  
To hold on overcoat buttons.  
To mend an umbrella with broken ribs.  
To open letters and cut papers.  
To pick up hot coals, chestnuts, etc.  
To arouse a slumberer.  
To illustrate and conciliate conversation.

## SUCH INVESTIGATIONS OF THE UTMOST VALUE.—C. H. EATON, D. D.

To the Editor of the Sunday Journal:

All such investigations as those made by Professor Hilprecht at Nippur are of the utmost value. First, for their own sake, as showing the extreme antiquity of the human race and the social and religious customs of the earliest peoples of the earth. They have their use also, because they throw light upon the customs and the history of the Hebrews, among whom our Bible was slowly evolved.

The Scriptures, so far as they declare the truth, are secure. If there is evidence that they are inaccurate or unjustly, every honest man should be glad to have such evidence produced. It is interesting to observe, however, that in spite of all the work of critics and ethical teachers for centuries, there never has been produced a book, or a collection of books, equal in principle and motive to the Old and New Testaments.

The interpretation of the cuneiform inscriptions, which is by no means recent, indicates a remarkable similarity between the conditions of the Hebrews and the traditions of other early Oriental races.

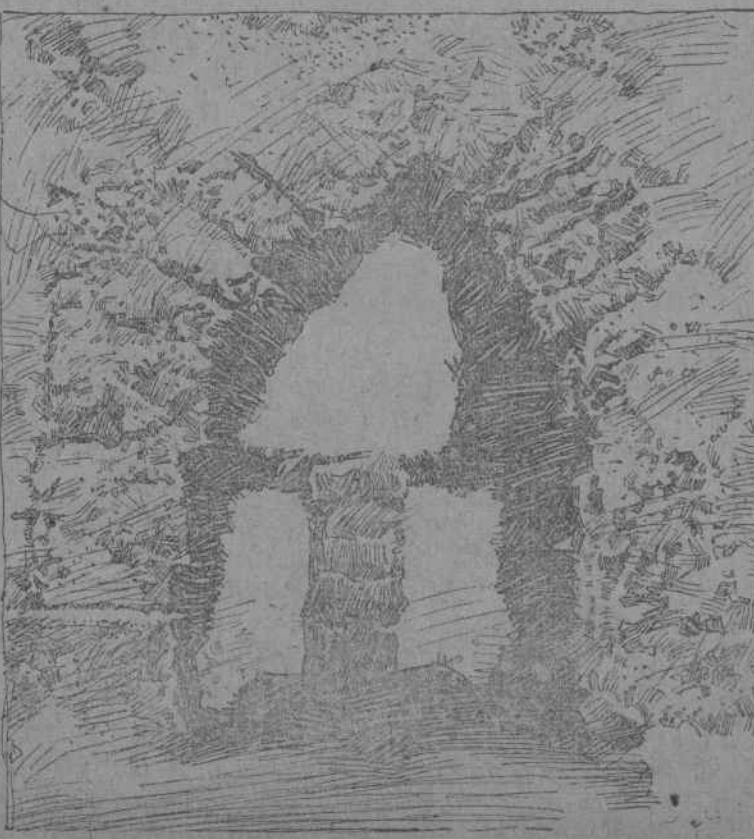
I believe that all recent investigations have rather added to than taken from the force of the Scriptures, and that the Bible has more weight to-day than ever before in its history.

CHARLES H. EATON.

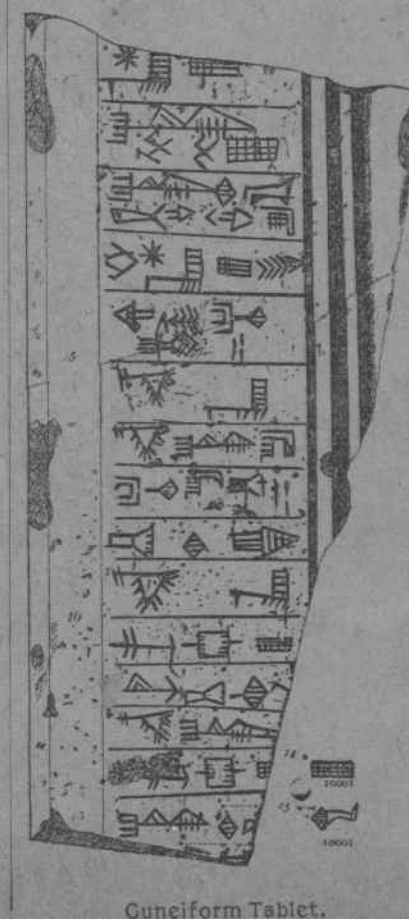


MAN  
GREAT  
KING  
EARTH  
HOUSE  
DOOR  
STAR-GOD-HEAVEN  
TO-GO GR-T STAND  
TO BE FULL  
OX  
MONTH  
FULL MOON  
SMALL  
DESTROY  
PEOPLE  
FIRE  
STONE  
SMITH  
FISH  
DAGGER

DISCOVERY  
OF THE  
OLDEST  
KEYSTONE  
ARCH  
KNOWN  
TO MAN.



BUILT AND  
IN RUINS  
CENTURIES  
BEFORE  
THE  
TOWER  
OF BABEL.



Cuneiform Tablet.